(b) the reasons for very slow and tardy progress in such rehabilitation and the remedial measures proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Adequate steps, as stipulated in the approved Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Project Report (PR) of each mine, are taken by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) for back filling of excavated mine voids and rehabilitation of land

The steps include Back filling of the de-coaled area, Leveling of the back filling area, Spreading of Topsoil over the back filled area and Biological reclamation over the back filled area.

(b) The progress of reclamation or rehabilitation of mined out land in MCL is satisfactory as is evident from table shown below:

(In Hectares)

Total area of land excavated & required to be reclaimed	Area of land physically or technically claimed	Area of plantation done on reclaimed land
1790	1545	1010

Rehabilitation of excavated mine is a continuous process. All excavated area cannot be reclaimed/rehabilitated because of technical reasons like movement of men, machinery in the active areas. As the progress is not slow, no remedial measures are proposed.

Availability of funds in mining sector

2406 SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited has posted a gross profit of Rs. 3700 crores in 2003-04;

(b) whether Government are aware that fund crunch may lead to coal scarcity in future; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to meet the demand of fund in mining sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) has earned a gross profit of Rs. 5017.48 crore (provisional, before tax and dividend) in the year 2003-04. However, accounts of CIL are yet to be audited.

(b) and (c) For the X plan period there is a match between the projections of capital outlay and available funds in case of Coal India Limited.

Import of high quality coal

2407. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are importing high quality coal from Australia and other countries;

(b) if so, whether such quality is not available in the country;

(c) whether any effort has been made to improve coal quality in the country;

(d) the exploration efforts going on in this regard;

(e) whether any agreements been signed with foreign companies to intensify the high quality coal exploration efforts; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Government do not import coal. Import of coal has been placed under Open General Licence (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal as per their specific requirements. Some grades of coal of very low ash content are not available in our coal reserves.

(c) Various steps are being taken to improve the quality of available indigenous coal right from the place of mining up to the dispatch point for consumers. Adherence to the envisaged mining sequence/mining layout at the working face, selective mining to separate dirt bands from coal, adoption of measures like picking of shale/stones at the mining faces, installing Coal Handling Plants (CHPs) and dispatch points,